

Message Text

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46

ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 NSCE-00 AID-01 SSO-00

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O R 141610Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5096

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA (CODEL PERCY), TECN, SF

SUBJ: CODEL PERCY: VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA ATOMIC ENERGY

INSTALLATION AT PELINDEBA

1. FIRST ITEM OF CODEL'S VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA WILL BE VISIT UNDER SAG AUSPICES TO SOUTH AFRICA ATOMIC ENERGY BOARD (SAAEB) AT PELINDABA, ABOUT 20 MILES WEST OF PRETORIA. SINCE EMBASSY WILL NOT HAVE OPPORTUNITY BRIEF CODEL BEFORE THIS ASPECT OF VISIT, BELIEVE CODEL SHOULD HAVE FOLLOWING BACKGROUND INFORMATION BEFORE ARRIVAL.

2. SAAEB, UNDER PRESIDENCY OF DR. A.J. ROUX, HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN NUCLEAR RESEARCH AND STATES IT HAS DEVELOPED ITS OWN STILL SECRET, URANIUM ENRICHMENT PROCESS. PROCESS IS NOW IN PILOT PLANT STAGE BEING CARRIED OUT BY SA URANIUM ENRICHMENT CORPORATION (CHAIRMAN BY DR. ROUX).

3. ESPECIALLY AS CONSEQUENCES THESE NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES, SAG HAS BEEN UNDER PRESSURE TO ADHERE TO NPT, BUT HAS NOT DONE SO ACCORDING TO THEIR STATEMENTS TO USG BECAUSE IT FEARS IAEA INSPECTION WOULD JEOPARDIZE SECRECY THEIR ENRICHMENT PROCESS. NEVERTHELESS USG HAS MANY TIMES URGED ADHERENCE.

4. PRESIDENT OF SAAEB HAS FREQUENTLY STATED THAT HE WOULD RECOMMEND SAG ADHERENCE TO CABINET IF SECRECY COULD BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ASSURED. TO THIS END USG WILL BE PROVIDING CERTAIN RECENT

TECHNICAL PAPERS ON ENRICHMENT PLANT SAFEGUARDS WHICH WILL
BE PROVIDED TO DR. ROUX WHEN RECEIVED.
BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

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